

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the August 23, 2005/Bhadrapada 1, 1927 (Saka)*

**(Ministries : Civil Aviation; Company Affairs; Finance; Panchayati Raj;
Petroleum and Natural Gas; Tourism; Water Resources)**

Total number of questions —155

Development of civil aviation in Uttar Pradesh

‡2814. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned for development of civil aviation in Uttar Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the projects on which work has been initiated and whether the work is proceeding as per schedule; and;

(c) if not, the steps taken and those proposed to be taken for timely completion of these projects?

Conversion of airstrip at Karwar into a full fledged international airport

2815. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposal from the State Government of Karnataka to convert the proposed airstrip at the Karwar Naval base into a full-fledged international airport;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sea-Bird plan includes building of an airstrip;

(c) whether the required land for the purpose has been acquired; and;

(d) by when, the final approval will be accorded in this regard?

Ahmedabad-New York air service

‡2816. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India plans to start a direct flight from Ahmedabad to New York on all the seven days of the week;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Operation of international services from Ahmedabad

‡2817. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

operate international flights by private airlines from Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Merger of IAAI and NAA

2818. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the J.D. Jain Committee even after ten years;

(b) the reasons for promoting employees of erstwhile National Airports Authority (NAA) and International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) on different norms after merger in violation of the provisions of para 18 of the AAI Act of 1994 passed by the Parliament; and

(c) what steps his Ministry has taken/proposed to take to ensure that the AAI Act of 1994 is implemented in true spirit?

Unauthorised absence of pilots

†2819. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether going on leave by pilots without any intimation is in accordance with rules;

(b) if not, what action Government initiate against such pilots;

(c) whether it is a fact that the daily flight from Kochi to Lakshadweep remained suspended for many days due to absence of pilots from duty without any intimation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what concrete steps Government are taking to avert such unfortunate incident in future?

Helipad near Sun Temple, Konark

2820. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has built a helipad within 2 Km. radius of the Sun Temple at Konark;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Archaeological Survey of India asked the State Government not to use the helipad as it poses a threat to the security of the 13th Century World Heritage site; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action taken/proposed to be taken against such construction within a World Heritage site?

Passengers stranded at Chennai Airport

2821. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international passengers of Air India were stranded at Chennai Airport recently and the Air India had totally failed to retrieve them for more than 14 hours in the airport itself whereas airlines like Malaysia Airlines, Singapore Airlines could give excellent facilities in a similar situation;

(b) whether it is due to system failure or human failure or both; and

(c) what are the special measures envisaged to meet such situations in future?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Performance of aviation sector

2822. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in the last five years to keep pace with the private airlines in terms of performance, profits, etc.;

(b) whether the steps undertaken by Government have borne fruit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

Restructuring of DGCA

2823. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for restructuring Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under his Ministry on the lines of TRAI of Telecommunication Department;

(b) if not, when it is expected to be restructured; and

(c) the details thereof?

Authority to regulate private airlines

2824. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private scheduled airlines harass passengers by sudden cancellation of flights or delay in starting of flights without any valid reason;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against such airlines;

(d) whether it is proposed to constitute an authority to regulate all airlines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revival of Cooch Behar airport

2825. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the aerodrome in Cooch Behar (West Bengal) lies deserted even though it could have served a large number of people of the region;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to revive it; and

(c) whether there is any proposal or plan to resume air service from the aerodrome and if so, the details thereof?

Free tickets on compassionate grounds

2826. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities being provided by Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) to senior citizens, women and serious patients including handicapped persons;

(b) the number of free tickets given by Air India/Indian Airlines on compassionate grounds to patients suffering from serious ailments during the last three years and till date;

(c) the criteria adopted for providing such facilities;

(d) whether the above mentioned category of persons have made any demand either to the Airlines or Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

Air fares competition

†2827. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many domestic airlines place advertisement in the newspapers regarding fares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many a time these advertisements are misguiding;

(c) whether it is a fact that many domestic airlines companies have entered Indian skies and a kind of price war has begin;

(d) whether it is also a fact that this situation can lead to bankruptcy of many companies that amounts to loss to Indian aviation industry;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to fix minimum fare on each domestic sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Subsidy on airtservices of North-Eastern States

2828. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's efforts in making availability of airtservices in the North-East and other inaccessible areas are lagging behind the expectations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government provide subsidies for air operations in those areas; and

(d) if so, the details of Government's support to the carriers with regard to making air services more effective in the inaccessible areas?

Extension of Bilaspur Airport

2829. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to upgrade Raipur airport into international airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider extending runways with additional parking bays at Raipur and Bilaspur airports with sufficient infrastructure and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would provide additional flights from Raipur and Bilaspur to Delhi and connect other major cities and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of steps taken by Government to connect Raipur, Durg, Bhilai and Korba with other major cities of Madhya Pradesh and Delhi?

Catering expenses of IA

2830. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the catering expenses of the Indian Airlines are abnormally high; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the expenditure on catering especially in the case of short route sectors?

Speedy clearance of passengers at airports

2831. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all the major airports in India are very much congested and passengers find it difficult

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to pass through the security checks as the facilities are very limited; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the pressure and speedy clearance of the passengers in the airports?

Price negotiations with Boeing Corporation

2832. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether price negotiations for the purchase of Boeing aircrafts has since been completed with the Boeing Corporation;

(b) if so, the conclusions about actual price of the aircraft indicating the final cost to be incurred on the purchase; and

(c) the other relevant terms of the purchase?

Funds for modernisation of airports

2833. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India proposes to raise Rs. 3,000 to 4,000 crores to develop the facilities at 25 non-metro airports across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the sources of funding of these projects?

Air-services agreement with Germany

2834. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after US, UK and France, India has finalized Bilateral

Air-services Agreement with Germany;

(b) if so, the details of the Agreement;

(c) the number of flights that fly at present from each country; and

(d) the details of points of call given to Germany and what are the additional points that India would cover in Germany through the new agreement?

International airports

2835. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international airports in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a long and persistent demand for upgradation of the Bajpe (Mangalore) Airport in Karnataka into an international airport considering the significant passenger traffic and export and import trade from the Bajpe Airport; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and Centre's reaction thereto?

Facilities to stranded passengers at Mumbai airport

2836. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by Air India and Indian Airlines, due to cancellation and diversion of flights following the closure of Mumbai airport due to heavy rains; and

(b) what facilities were provided by Airlines and Airports Authority of India to the stranded passengers in Mumbai and other major airports?

Restoration of Mumbai airport terminals

2837. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the damage caused to the international and domestic terminal of Mumbai airport following the recent heavy rains; and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Airports Authority of India to repair and restore Mumbai airport terminals?

IA's proposal to join Global Airlines Alliance

2838. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is planning to join a Global Airlines Alliance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Upgradation of Lucknow airport

2839. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Lucknow (Amausi) and Amritsar (Rajasansi) airports into ultramodern airports;

(b) if so, whether the work thereon has been held up; if so, the details of the projects and at what stage it has been held up; and

(c) the progress made thereon, so far?

Effect of poaching of pilots

2840. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the informal 'No Poaching' agreement reached between public sector and private sector airlines is working as expected;

(b) whether both Indian Airlines and Alliance Airways are feeling the crunch of pilot shortage and whether of late, most of the departure schedules have gone away;

(c) what contingency measures are planned by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to prevent such abrupt exit of the crew; and

(d) whether the DGCA proposes to revoke licenses of the crew in the event of their quitting employment without adequate notice?

New baggage clearance system

2841. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to put the modern "In Line" system in all major airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the automated machine baggage clearance system, if installed, will help to ease the congestion at the airports; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

MCA-21 for online information of Registrar of Companies

2842. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched

Rs. 341 crore project christened as "MCA-21", to connect the Ministry with all its regional offices and the 22 Registrars of Companies across the country with a centralised system to provide on-line information to all the stakeholders including public, financial institutions and companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Reimbursement of taxi fare

2843. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government employees residing in peripherals towns of NCR i.e. NOIDA, Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Gurgaon, etc. are not allowed reimbursement of taxi/scooter fare when they attend office on holidays or processed on tour;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to issue suitable revised order so as to make the official residing in peripherals towns eligible for reimbursement of taxi/scooter charges and also allow Government vehicles to enter the areas under reference as a routine matter since number of Government offices have been shifted thereof; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Customs gate in Indo-Myanmar border

2844. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from Moreh (Manipur) there is another customs gate namely Zowkhatari Hai in the Indo-Myanmar border;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said gate is not operational for border trade;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government proposed to make the said gate operational and if not, the reason therefor?

Sale of 20 per cent shares of BHEL

†2845. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell 20 per cent shares of BHEL to the private sector; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether BHEL has earned profit during the last three years; if so, the total profit earned by BHEL during the said period;

(c) whether the economic capacity of BHEL would improve by selling its share capital to the private sector; and

(d) if so, the quantum thereof?

Status of the World Bank projects

†2846. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being implemented with World Bank assistance in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the present status of these projects and the expected benefits that will accrue to the State?

Fluctuations in production of stamps

2847. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been wide fluctuations in the production, indent and supply of stamps and stamp papers for Indian Security Press from 1996-97 to 2003-04;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the supplies varied between as low as 27 per cent and a maximum of 59 per cent of the indents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Non-disbursal of loans by banks under SJGRY

2848. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had a series of meetings with the Minister of Rural Development regarding non-disbursal of loans by nationalised banks under the Swarn Jayanti Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SJGRY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of nationalised banks which have not yet started disbursal of loans under this scheme and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to disburse the loans by the nationalised banks?

Seizure of trucks loaded with smuggled betel nuts

†2849. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the customs officials of Patna had seized four trucks loaded with smuggled betel nuts on 31st August, 2003 and 17th September, 2003 respectively which were later on set free by the Ministry *vide* its order dated 5th November, 2003 without having conducted an appropriate enquiry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Commissioner of Customs, Patna had given a reward of Rupees fifty thousand to the informer for this purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

Status report on external debt

2850. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the status report on external debt released by his Ministry, India's indebtedness rose by \$8.1 billion to \$121 billion in 2004 as compared to \$112.8 billion the year before; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that among the top ten debtor countries, India's position was less precarious than others in terms of other indicators?

Illicit drugs trade in Punjab

2851. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the media report about the trading in illicit drugs in Punjab;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, particularly about the veracity of the facts and figures highlighted therein; and

(c) the actions initiated, if any, especially based on the media report to prevent continuation of the illicit trade in drugs in Punjab, apprehend the kingpins of the trade and bringing them to book?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Categorisation of Ajmer city

†2852. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether category of Ajmer city of Rajasthan has been changed from category 'B' to 'C';

(b) if so, what is the basis of the same; and

(c) the details thereof?

Increase in coverage of pension scheme

2853. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only about 11 per cent of the total population of our country is covered by a proper pension scheme and a large number of people are still not covered by pensions so far;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for increasing coverage of pension scheme in various fields?

Package for development of Telangana

2854. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought Rs. 2000 crore package for development of Telangana;

(b) whether the Central Government have approved package for development of this region;

(c) if so, what are the main schemes that will be covered under this package; and

(d) how much amount has been allocated for the remaining period of 2005-06?

Meeting on financial sector reforms

2855. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had called a meeting of the Chief Financial Officers and top companies of India to take stock of the financial sector reforms;

(b) if so, what were the main points discussed in the meeting;

(c) what are the issues that were pointed out by these authorities;

(d) whether the Ministry has considered their views and has decided to revive reforms process; and

(e) by when they are likely to be considered?

Availability of loans to small and marginal farmers

†2856. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small and marginal farmers are not getting benefited adequately despite increase in the availability of loans to agriculture sector;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government are formulating any scheme to ensure that small and marginal farmers get loan without depositing security;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is a fact that task force of Reserve Bank of India has suggested to set up a 'Risk Fund' in this regard; and
- (f) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Implementation of Varsha Bima Yojana

2857. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question No. 226 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August, 2005 and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Varsha Bima Yojana is being implemented only in a few States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Scheme is proposed to be extended to the whole of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Collection of Education Cess

2858. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS
KAUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total collection from the 2 per cent Education Cess on all Central taxes during 2004-05 and how much of it had gone into the fund for elementary education;

(b) how much of it was utilised on various education related schemes and financing schemes aimed at universal access to education; and

- (c) how far the public education expenditure has reached the target of 6 per cent of GDP as contemplated under the Common Minimum Programme?

Sixth Pay Commission

2859. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
SHRI N. K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Action Council of Government Employees put forward any request to revise their pay and allowances by appointing Sixth Pay Commission; and
- (b) whether Government have taken decision to appoint Sixth Pay Commission and Government's reaction thereto?

Deduction of Service Tax

†2860. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the names of those big companies which took services from the foreign based companies but neither did they deduct Service Tax nor have they deposited it after deduction;
- (b) what are the names of those big companies which took services from the Indian Companies and did not either deduct Service-Tax or deposited it after deduction;
- (c) the details of the amount of Service Tax outstanding against each company; and
- (d) what measures Government are taking to realise Service Tax amount?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Merger of small banks with bigger banks

†2861. SHRI JANARDAN
DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which approval by Government was accorded to the proposal of merging of some of the smaller banks with the bigger ones alongwith the details thereof;

(b) the basis of merging of banks;

(c) by when the process of merging will be completed; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

Fiscal deficit

2862. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been able to rein in the fiscal deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to control expenditure and recover tax arrears to further control the deficit?

Advisory Council for exemption to exporters

†2863. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware that the facilities which are to be provided to the exporters under section 80HHC of Income Tax Act are not being provided to them;

(b) whether any Advisory Council has been set up by the Prime Minister's office to consider on this issue and the related matters; and

(c) if so, what is Government's view in this regard?

Income Tax on profits of exporters

2864. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imposed Income Tax on profit earned by exporters through the sale of Duty Entitlement Pass Book credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export promotion bodies have launched an agitation against this move of Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

Review of Service Tax

2865. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sectors on which service tax at present is imposed by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry propose to review the Service Tax on some of the sectors like shipping and management consultancy; and

(c) the reasons for reviewing the (a) above?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Issue of Ten thousand rupee note

2866. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue new currency notes and coins during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are also considering of issuing Ten thousand rupee note and if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Central Government are considering any plan to get the States free from old debt by giving interest free new debt;

(d) the name of the largest debt-ridden States and reasons for its being debt-ridden; and

(e) what is the combined per capita internal debt of all States and the Central Government?

Refusal by banks to accept Fringe Benefits Tax

2867. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-updated software, many banks are refusing to accept Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) payments by their corporate clients;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating extension of deadline of submission of FBT by corporates further from August 15; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating any other directions or guidelines to help ease in submission of FBT returns by businesses, both small and large?

Internal debt on various States

†2868. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of internal debt of Central Government and its sister financial institutions due on various States of the country, State-wise;

(b) the plan of Central Government to free the States from the burden of debt;

Minting of 10 rupee coin

†2869. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to mint a Rs 10 coin;

(b) whether these coins will be cast in large numbers keeping in view the scarcity of 25 and 50 paise coin;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Interest free banking

†2870. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving a serious thought to the proposal of interest free banking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Loans for agricultural products in NER

2871. SHRINABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

formulated any plan for granting loans to the farmers for agricultural products in the NER;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Occupation of premises by banks on lease and rental basis

2872. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Units and Public Sector Banks are occupying premises in major Metro cities on lease and rental basis;

(b) if so, whether their lease agreement is subject to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Urban Development; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Turnover of internet trading in shares

2873. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of turnover of internet trading in shares in stock exchanges, both NSE and BSE;

(b) what are the steps being taken to regulate the internet trading brokers;

(c) whether SEBI has prescribed any audit measures to be undertaken by such brokers; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

RBI's guidelines for banks to cut exposure to real estate

2874. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has advised Public Sector Banks to cut exposure to real estate;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the response of Public Sector Banks to the RBI guidelines?

Income-Tax exemption to backward States

†2875. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more backward States other than Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, which have been given special exemption in Income-Tax and excise considering their backwardness, would also be given the same kind of exemption; and

(b) if not, whether it is not an injustice to very backward States of the country?

Tax collected from petroleum products

2876. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of taxes/levies collected by the Central and State Governments from petroleum products;

(b) what is the break-up of prices of petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene respectively; and

(c) the comparison of taxes collected per unit of petroleum products in India as against those in other South Asian economies?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Intimidation of people who default in paying dues

2877. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain credit card issuing banks send hired goons to intimidate people who default in paying dues;

(b) whether any complaints have been received to this effect; and

(c) what action would Government take to discipline such banks that take law unto themselves?

Income-Tax raids on educational institutes

2878. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educational institutions subjected to Income-Tax raids in the last three months; and

(b) how much, unaccounted wealth has been detected?

SBI ATMs in Delhi

2879. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Bank of India branches in Delhi covered with ATM facility;

(b) whether the SBI branch at DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA Colony is having the ATM facility; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when, the said facility will be made available which may benefit a number of people visiting DDA office?

Committee to improve working of RRBs

†2880. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted to look for measures to improve working and financial status of the Regional Rural Banks;

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring these banks under control of an apex bank and bring them under administrative and financial control of NABARD to make them village oriented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of steps being taken to improve the condition of Regional Rural Banks?

Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement with Singapore

2881. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Singapore have signed a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a proposal to allow some of the Singapore banks to open branches in India as a part of this agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Second phase of Tax Information Network

2882. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated second phase of Tax Information Network, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the expenditure sanctioned for the three year period?

Monitoring of economic activities of Public Limited Companies

2883. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to monitor from time to time, economic and administrative status of key Public Limited and Private Limited Companies in national interest including the interest of public money involved therein; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Liability of guarantors

2884. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 5002 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th May, 2005 and to state:

(a) whether all guarantors where settlement is below Rs. 10 lakh have been informed of the connected liability and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Legal Department of Punjab and Sind Bank has been consulted for connected liability and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the names of firms/ individuals where security papers have not been released even after settlement of dues

and have been linked with connected liabilities?

Support to Co-operative Banks

2885. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Co-operative Banks are not able to get enough co-operation from RBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Aviation Turbine Fuel as declared goods

2886. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) as declared goods in order to help the Airline Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Compensation for delaying dividends by UTI

2887. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that UTI has been asked to pay compensation for delaying dividend to holders under UGS 5000 scheme;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of UTI consumers that did not receive the dividend till date; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when these consumers will get delayed dividend?

Cases pending in SBI, NRI Branch

2888. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of applications are pending in SBI (NRI Branch) Connaught Circus, New Delhi for release of payment of the deceased Non Resident Indians to their legal heir;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take against bank officials responsible for such undue delay; and

(d) by when these cases are likely to be cleared by the Bank?

Disinvestment of public enterprises

†2889. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of heavy industries and public enterprises which were disinvested during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) which industries are proposed to be disinvested;

(c) whether Government propose to bring those heavy industries and public enterprises under Government's purview again through a reconsideration which have been divested in the last five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Scheme to unearth black money

†2890. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating any new comprehensive scheme to unearth black money;

(b) if so, the outlines of this scheme;

(c) whether Government are considering seriously to make the Income-Tax policy rules simple, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that for last ten years it is being proposed to amend the Income-Tax rules, but no concrete steps have been taken in that regard; and

(e) the major reasons causing delay and the details thereof?

Funds released to States

2891. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much fund has been released by the Central Government to State Governments in different categories; and out of that how much amount has been spent by the State Governments;

(b) whether the State Governments have received the help from abroad or received amount from other sources other than Government; and

(c) whether it is a fact that State Governments could not utilise the funds so received and still have funds available, if so, how much?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Impersonation of IT officials to get PAN from BSNL employees

2892. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some firms/agents are impersonating as Income Tax Officers to get Permanent Account Number of BSNL employees in Bangalore if so the details thereof;

(b) the number of BSNL employees who were forced to give their Permanent Account Number; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Amount sanctioned for National Social Assistance Programme to Madhya Pradesh

†2893. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the amount of Rs. 8813.32 lakhs to Madhya Pradesh for National Social Assistance Programme for the year 2005-06; and

(b) if so, by when the said amount will be released to Madhya Pradesh?

Implementation of Panchayati Act

2894. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement the provision of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled) Act, 1996;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be implemented and to what extent the tribals will be benefited; and

(c) to what extent the Act will help to check naxalites activities in tribal dominated areas?

Powers to village panchayats at Haryana

†2895. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the new powers Government propose to grant to the village Panchayats of the country;

(b) the amount of financial assistance given by the Central Government to the State Government of Haryana or the village Panchayats for the development works during the last six months;

(c) whether this financial assistance has been adequately utilised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Compensation on pipeline projects

†2896. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount of compensation regarding the pipelines being laid for the transport of petroleum products (including gas) to various parts of the country under the Petroleum and Minerals Pipeline Act has not been distributed for many years; and

(b) if so, the details of undistributed amount alongwith its project-wise and State-wise period?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Oil companies demand for review of oil prices

2897. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector oil companies have demanded a fresh review of oil prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that world oil prices continue to hover at around US Dollar 57 per a barrel; and

(d) if so, at what price India is getting the oil?

Adulteration of petroleum products

†2898. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at those places where private sector petrol pumps have been opened, the consumers there have started showing less interest for the public sector petrol pumps like Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum and I.B.P.;

(b) whether adulteration and under weighing done by petrol pumps of public sector and lack of consumer services there are main reasons for this disinterest shown by the people towards these petrol pumps;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevent adulteration and under-weighing; and

(d) the number of petrol pumps which have been raided during the last three years to prevent adulteration and under weighing and the action taken in this regard?

Merger of small oil companies

2899. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that V. Krishnamurthy Committee recommended for creation of three monolithic PSU entities to compete with international multinational companies;

(b) whether it is a fact that originally it was to have only two super oil companies;

(c) whether the merger of small oil companies like IBP, Kochi Refinery would dilute the Government's holding in such companies; and

(d) in what manner Government are going to protect the employees rights and privileges in the new big companies?

GAIL's agreement with China Gas Holdings Corporation

2900. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd., had picked up 10 per cent stake with China's Gas Holdings Corporation this year;

(b) whether GAIL has received a formal offer from China's Gas Holding Corporation to jointly undertake gas distribution projects in three Chinese cities;

(c) whether GAIL has studied the project and decided to form a joint venture with China's Gas Holding Corporation where GAIL is expecting to have majority and management control; and

(d) the time for which an agreement to this effect is likely to be signed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Maintenance clause in international pipeline projects

2901. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have scheduled a Working Group Meeting with Pakistan on the Iran Pipeline to discuss Risk Mitigation in August, 2005;

(b) what are the expected items which will be discussed with regard to Risk Mitigation;

(c) whether Government will study and raise the issue of having special courts to deal with humanitarian issues arising out of commercial activity;

(d) whether it is a fact that pipeline maintenance would require mutual travel by workers and engineers; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the existing Consular practices in relation to mega pipeline projects?

Exploration of coal bed methane

2902. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the expected time of commercial availability of coal bed methane for industrial use from Raniganj and Jharia blocks by ONGC;

(b) the present status of exploration; and

(c) the quantum of investment made in these blocks so far?

Plant level Advisory Committee

†2903. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plant level Advisory Committee in all undertakings has been constituted for the development of those subsidiary industries of public sector undertakings under Central Government which are functioning in Chhattisgarh State;

(b) the dates on which the meetings of plant level Advisory Committee of public sector IBP Company Limited, were held after the formation of Chhattisgarh State; and

(c) the number of subsidiary industries of I.B.P. Company Limited which have been set up and the names out of them given purchase-orders after the formation of Chhattisgarh State alongwith year-wise details of amount thereof?

Major fire accidents

†2904. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil and gas producing industry is considered as a risky industry throughout the world;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the number of mishaps taken place in the country from the year 2003 till the end of July, 2005 and the estimated extent of loss of lives and property as a result thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is also a fact that special measures are needed to be taken for the safety in view of risks involved therein; and

(e) if so, the estimated annual amount likely to be spent on such measures?

Dividend of oil refineries

†2905. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dividend of oil refineries in the country is increasing despite the rise in the prices of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the increase in dividend rate during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and in the first three months of 2005-06, separately?

Sale of crude ONGC

†2906. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation had sold domestically produced crude oil to the oil refineries during past years;

(b) if so, the average price of crude oil sold by ONGC in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and till June, 2005-06;

(c) the quantum of crude oil sold during each of the said periods; and

(d) the total production of crude oil during each of the above period?

Losses suffered by IOC and BPCL

†2907. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation, a public sector oil company had a turnover of Rs. 42,393 crore during April, 2005 to June 2005;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited had a turnover of Rs. 16,016 crore during the said period;

(c) if not, the details in this regard and whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation has suffered less loss as compared to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the difference in losses suffered by the two corporations?

Determination of sale price of petroleum products

†2908. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is still no permanent system to determine the consumer sale prices of petrol, diesel, LPG and Kerosene oil in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the grounds selected to determined consumer sale price of petrol and diesel in every price determination from past two years in the country;
- (d) the reasons for selecting different grounds in different periods; and
- (e) the reasons for not fixing well determined grounds for it?

Cost of production of gas

†2909. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government oil companies are producing gas in the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the companies and gas produced by them during the past months of 2005;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the gas production capacity of these organisations;
- (d) the maximum capacity of gas production of each of the said organisations; and
- (e) the assessment of average cost of gas production in each of these organisations in 2005?

Use of heavy high sulphur crude in refineries

†2910. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that by using cheap crude oil in the oil refineries of the country the increase in the cost of diesel and petrol can be checked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) to what percentage heavy-high sulphur crude is being used in oil-refineries of the country as on date; and

(d) the details regarding the maximum percentage of the same being used in the other countries of the world?

Production of petrol from coal

†2911. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P.
GOYAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for making petrol from coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued for preparing a viability report in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) to what extent the oil dependence of the country is likely to be decreased after production of petrol from coal; and
- (f) to what extent foreign currency be saved as a result thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Review of oil exploration policy

2912. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take a re-look at its present oil and gas exploration policy;

(b) whether offering blocks under various rounds of the New Exploration and Licensing Policy has not attracted sufficient foreign capital;

(c) if so, what are the other main reasons for not introducing the exploration policy as processed by the Ministry; and

(d) what are the other steps he is considering to take in this regard?

Supply of Kerosene to Maharashtra

2913. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of kerosene oil in various parts of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide adequate supply of kerosene in the State?

Supply of gas to RGTPP

2914. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gas which is presently available at Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project (RGTPP);

(b) how much additional quantity of gas would still be required to run the plant at full capacity; and

(c) the details of agency which will supply additional gas for this project?

Additional gas to NE States

2915. SHRIMATISYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Myanmar gas pipeline will run through the North East without touching Bangladesh and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Bangladesh has forwarded any pre-conditions seeking commercial concessions in lieu of allowing the gas pipeline to run through its country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the cost effect in building pipe line without touching of Bangladesh and through Bangladesh; and

(d) whether North East Region will get some additional gas to put an end to the gas crisis in the region?

Renovation of petrol retail outlets

2916. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil companies are renovating petrol and diesel retail outlets at company's cost;

(b) if so, the total amount spent in this regard in the last three years by oil companies; and

(c) the justification for the same?

Use of Kerosene for adulteration

2917. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent NCAER report over half of Kerosene supplied to PDS is pilfered and used in petrol and diesel adulteration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the over 75 per cent of Kerosene users in rural areas use it for lighting purposes;

(c) the total cost of India's Kerosene imports for each of the last three years;

(d) the steps, if any, contemplated by Government to check pilferage and misuse of Kerosene; and

(e) the steps, if any, contemplated by Government to promote use of LPG in rural households?

Unexploited hydro-carbon reserves

2918. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hydro-carbon deposits in the country unexploited so far;

(b) whether Government have set aside any percentage of hydrocarbon for future use; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Funding for pipeline project

†2919. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has offered to build an important part of Indo-Iran gas pipeline

with its own money in order to nullify the American pressure on this pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

ONGC's projects in Caspian region

2920. SHRIMATI SUKHBUN KAUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether access to Caspian oil region has been considered necessary for India's energy security; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken during 2004-05 and this year so far to secure a stake in the various oil blocks in the region for the ONGC and with what success so far?

Awareness programme on price rise

2921. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that every time when prices of petroleum products are increased in India no exercise is made to take people into confidence;

(b) whether Government propose to undertake an awareness programme to explain to the people in detail with facts and figures which compel Government to increase the prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Discount to refineries by ONGC

2922. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the impact of the Bombay High Fire is going to be felt not just in terms of loss of human life and production but downstream as well;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have directed ONGC to give discount to refineries to compensate them for Government capped fuel prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Blending of ethanol with petroleum

2923. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discontinued the policy of permitting blending of ethanol with petroleum products;

(b) if so, the rationale for the change in the policy; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this change in policy has caused serious hardship not only to the producers of sugarcane who get a lesser price but also to the sugar factories which have lost a lucrative source of income?

Incentives to employees of oil PSUs

2924. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given as productivity incentives to the management and non-management category of employees

separately in oil sector during the last four years from 2001-02, separately and company-wise;

(b) the justification for such a scheme without concern for the economic realities of the country;

(c) whether Government propose to extend this scheme for the period 1st January, 1997 to 31st March, 2000; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the financial implications thereof, company-wise?

FDI in oil explorations

2925. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a hydro-carbon resource base of 30 billion tonnes or 225 billion barrels of oil and oil equivalent gas potentialities;

(b) if so, the detailed schemes proposed to be undertaken to explore these massive internal potentialities of oil and gas;

(c) whether Government are proposing to offer 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in oil and gas exploration;

(d) if so, the various conditions which Government propose to impose for Foreign Direct Investment; and

(e) the details of benefits which our country could gain by such 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in oil and gas exploration without weakening our self exploring technical potentialities?

Alternative to petrol and diesel

2926. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research is being

conducted at national and international level to find out an alternative fuel to petroleum and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved in this regard so far?

Special dividend by oil PSUs

2927. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether major PSU oil companies have booked losses in the first quarter of the current fiscal and if so, whether there is any likelihood of their skipping dividends this year;

(b) whether the skipping of dividends by oil companies could adversely affect the non-tax revenue collection of the Centre for 2005-06 for Government being the largest shareholder of the oil PSUs; and

(c) whether the oil companies are likely to respond to the Centre's SOS for special dividends, by dipping into their reserve, which are meant for investments only?

Beautification of temples in Uttar Pradesh

†2928. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded proposals/ estimates to the Central Government for beautification of Saifai pond and renovation of Kalivahan temple in district Etawah, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government so far?

Hemkund Sahib

2929. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken on the Hemkund Sahib destination in Uttaranchal under the scheme of promotion of cultural destinations;

(b) the quantum of funds allotted therefor; and

(c) Government's plans to improve facilities at this important historical and religious destination, which is visited by a large number of pilgrims?

Schemes to attract more tourists

2930. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 3.21 million foreign tourists arrived in India in 2004 generating Rs. 21,828 crore in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether for the same period 5.5 million Indian tourists went abroad;

(c) whether in view of visa on arrival scheme for tourists from 15 countries including Australia, the tourists won't have to wait to get visa;

(d) whether to attract more tourists Ministry of Home is considering two crucial proposals, first is visa arrival scheme for tourists from 16 countries and the second is considering to issue restricted area permit and protected area permit for foreigners going to North-East; and

(e) if so, to what extent this has also helped to improve tourists traffic in India?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Programmes to promote Meenakshi Temple

2931. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madurai Meenakshi Temple is being considered for selection as one of the seven new wonders of the world;

(b) what are the programmes of the Ministry to promote the Meenakshi Temple as one of the major tourist attractions in Southern India either through print or electronic media; and

(c) whether her Ministry is funding for the renovation and maintenance of the Temple?

Decline in flow of tourist in Assam

2932. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been sharp decline in flow of tourists from within the country and outside in the State of Assam;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the poor infrastructural facility is the sole responsible factor for such decline of tourists in the State;

(c) if so, what has been done during the current plan to give boost to the State tourism; and

(d) whether the Manas National Park could also be considered for new Eco-Tourism Circuit in the State?

Tourist places in Tamil Nadu

2933. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have received many proposals from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for declaring various places in Tamil Nadu as tourist places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of places declared as tourist places during the last two years?

Development of tourist places in Chennai

2934. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent by Government for the development of tourist places in the country particularly in Chennai; and

(b) whether any amount is lying unspent under the scheme?

Projects on development of tourism

†2935. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States that get deprived of taking the benefit of Central assistance for not submitting project reports on time to her Ministry and as a result thereof development of a number of prominent tourist places is not done properly and tourists avoid visiting these places;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to provide basic amenities at such tourist places; and

(c) if so, the details of funds provided for the development of tourism projects during the last two years, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ropeway to Nandi Hills

2936. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to set up a ropeway at the Nandi Hills outside Bangalore;

(b) whether an expert committee has been constituted to study and submit a feasibility report to Government;

(c) whether there is any proposal with Government to constitute a Nandi Hills Development Authority; and

(d) what will be the estimated cost of the project and how much funds are allocated by the Centre?

Incredible India Campaign

2937. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are launching Incredible India Campaign in order to attract foreign tourists to India; and

(b) if so, the number of countries where this campaign has been launched and the results achieved as a result thereof?

Rural tourism in Gujarat and TN

2938. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the potential of rural tourism in the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action being taken thereon

indicating district-wise location of such tourism spots; and

(c) the amount allocated to the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to promote tourism for 2005-06 and the steps being taken for its full utilisation?

Flow of tourists in Madhya Pradesh

†2939. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a declining trend of flow of tourists in Madhya Pradesh has been recorded during the last three years;

(b) the details of annual flow of domestic as well as foreign tourists in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

(c) the assistance being provided to State Government by the Centre to attract the tourists to visit Madhya Pradesh?

Development of tourism in rural areas

2940. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has launched a project for development of tourism in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) what is the amount of investment involved in the project; and

(d) what measures are being proposed to market these rural tourism destinations?

Project report on new destinations

2941. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Consultancy Business Development Division,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Department of Tourism has submitted project reports for destination, circuit and rural tourism for various states;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken thereon?

Irregularities in transaction of Centaur Hotel

2942. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered to conduct a probe into the irregularities in the transaction of Centaur Hotel and if so, the agency to which the probe has been entrusted with and the issues which stand referred to for enquiry;

(b) whether Government propose to conduct any probe on the alleged irregularities behind the transaction of Kovalam Hotel in Kerala in line with the Centaur Hotel probe; and

(c) whether any request has been received from any quarter or sought the intervention of Government for ordering such a probe, if any?

Tourism potential of the country

2943. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the tourism industry being in a poor state in India and what is the country's percentage share in global tourism;

(b) the policy of Government to realise full potential of tourism in India; and

(c) the provision made in the Budget 2005-06, if any, to boost the tourism industry in Rajasthan?

Promotion of adventurous tourism in Andhra Pradesh

2944. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to promote adventurous tourism in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated/released to Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and the current year for the purpose?

Promotion of health tourism

2945. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to pitch for co-branding exercise alongwith premium Indian hotel zones and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to give medical tourism the much needed boost;

(b) whether any action plan has been prepared for this purpose;

(c) whether the Ministry propose to promote health tourism alongwith Incredible India Campaign; and

(d) if so, what are the other strategies that Government propose to promote health tourism in the country?

Assistance for tourism projects in Andhra Pradesh

2946. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released any assistance for tourism projects to the

State Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last one year;

- (b) if so, the names of the projects;
- (c) by when the said projects are likely to be completed; and
- (d) the amount spent on these projects so far and by when remaining amount is likely to be made available to the State Government?

Promotion of tourism in tribal areas

†2947. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the plans of the Central Government for promoting tourism in the country;
- (b) the amount provided to the State Governments State-Wise, during the last three years under the same;
- (c) the amount out of the said amount provided for promoting tourism in tribal areas; and
- (d) the names of tribal areas of Chhattisgarh and the amount provided for development of tourism in such areas?

Pending tourism projects of Assam

†2948. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether numerous tourism projects of Assam are pending with Central Government for approval;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and
- (c) the details of the steps Government have taken for according approval to these projects so far?

Ropeway in Ma Sharda Dham in Satna (Madhya Pradesh)

†2949. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that construction of a ropeway in Ma Sharda Dham in Mehar, Satna (MP) has been proposed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that file related to ropeway in Ma Sharda Dham is pending in the Department of Forests; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to construct the ropeway at the said place immediately?

Promotion of tourism in Karnataka

2950. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal seeking Rs. 611 crores for taking up various tourism promotion projects in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details of the tourist places proposed to be developed with the Central assistance; and
- (c) what is the status of the above proposal?

Samples of drinking water supplied by DJB

2951. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of the samples of drinking water supplied by the Delhi Jal Board were tested in the last week of March this year in six of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

City's 12 civic zones and in some hospitals and dispensaries;

(b) whether it is a fact that at least 280 samples failed the test; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to fix responsibility in the matter and address the situation to save the Capital from Cholera and water borne diseases?

Corruption in water-shed programmes

2952. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enormous amounts of money have gone into and water-shed programmes in various States; and

(b) whether in view of allegations of corruption and embezzlements in the process, Government propose to consider to streamline the operations of projects?

National Coastal Protection Project

2953. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Water Schemes/Projects which are likely to be taken up during the year 2005-06;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has given its approval regarding National Coastal Protection Project with external funding;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the States to be benefited thereby; and

(d) the estimated cost of this project?

Consumption of water in five star hotels/industrial houses

2954. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that data relating to five star hotels and industrial houses reflect that they are guilty of high consumption of water;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to check it; and

(c) whether Government would take concrete steps to make it their duty to recharge ground water and cut down on their consumption?

Rain water harvesting in school buildings

†2955. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any pilot scheme for rain water harvesting in the school buildings situated in rural and remote areas throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of schools included or provided financial aid under this project in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab; and

(d) whether Government propose to extend this project in future, if so, the details thereof and the criteria for selection of implementing agencies thereof?

Solution of floods and drought

2956. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:
SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while some parts of the country is in the grip of severe drought, the other parts faces havoc caused by flood;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the loss suffered on account of flood in different parts of the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government are considering to link various rivers and channelise over flowing rivers to the drought-prone regions of the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Inter-State water disputes

2957. SHRI LALIT SURI:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inter-State water disputes over the sharing of river waters have affected the implementation of irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the number of such disputes relating to Karnataka which are pending with Government, Tribunals and Regulatory Authorities; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to settle the issues amicably and expeditiously?

World Bank assistance to Hydrology Project-II

2958. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States where Hydrology Project-II is proposed to be implemented with the help of World Bank assistance, district-wise;

(b) whether the project has been approved by the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the terms on which this project has been accepted by the World Bank?

Study on water-scarce regions

2959. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study/survey to assess the water-scarce regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate a comprehensive policy to provide water to water-scarce regions in the country?

Fall in ground water level

†2960. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been constant fall in ground water level in various States during the last two decades and as a result of which a grave situation has arisen regarding the resources providing safe water for drinking, irrigation and cultivation;

(b) whether the likelihood of drought in some States due to constant falling of water level has arisen;

(c) whether Government have formulated a long term plan till now to tackle the situation; and

(d) whether Government have carried out any research work regarding ground water resources?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Major and medium irrigation projects in Assam

2961. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major and medium ongoing irrigation projects in Assam proposed for completion in Tenth Plan strategy;

(b) the details of minor irrigation projects of State in respect of which the plan outlay has been approved for the Tenth Plan; and

(c) what is the status of Champa and Dhansiri Irrigation Projects of Bodoland area of Assam?

Commissions for settlement of river water disputes

†2962. SHRIMAIT SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of commissions constituted for the settlement of river water disputes so far;

(b) the number of commissions out of them which have submitted their reports; and

(c) the details of commissions which have not submitted reports indicating the date, of their constitution period of tenure and the number of times their tenure extended?

Rejuvenation of water bodies

2963. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal/project for rejuvenation of water bodies, if so, the total number of such

neglected abandoned water bodies which need to be reclaimed;

(b) the details of criteria adopted for allotting funds to various States for rejuvenating water bodies;

(c) whether it is a fact that an acute shortage of water reservoirs like pools, ponds, baoris etc. is being observed in country;

(d) the details of the grants allotted to States for the above purpose as on date State-wise and category-wise;

(e) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has submitted any proposal for renovation of water bodies; and

(f) if so, the details including grant requested and granted?

Irrigation projects of Orissa

†2964. SHRISURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the beginning of current year, the State Government of Orissa had submitted proposals regarding mega and medium irrigation proposals like Anandpur Barrage, Buttang, Katta, Samapoi, Marawa, Abadh etc. for initial approval of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far; and

(c) the reasons for their pendency so far and the time by which these projects are likely to be accorded initial approval?

Proposals pending with CWC

†2965. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pertaining

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to the State of Chhattisgarh lying pending with Central Water Commission (CWC) for approval and since when these proposals are pending;

(b) the reasons for delay in sanctioning these proposals; and

(c) by when, the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

Objections to interlinking of rivers

2966. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received objections from various State Governments regarding interlinking of rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the views of Government to the objections received from the State Governments?

Storage of water in Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala

2967. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate safety measures are on anvil in dams since water level is raising due to copious monsoon rain fall;

(b) if so, the details of safety measures taken including year of construction, present water-level maximum storage capacity of dams situated in Kerala, as on date category-wise;

(c) whether Government have cleaned up the mouth of the spillway of Mullaperiyar Dam situated in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details including period of latest cleaning and the amount spent for the above, category-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid any calamity due to the increased water storage in Mullaperiyar Dam?

Check on use of ground water

2968. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any directions to the State Governments to take necessary steps to preserve the ground water storage against its unlimited exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereon;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to introduce any special scheme to minimise the use of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
the 17th August, 2005
Sravana 26, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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